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German Democratic Republic

FDD Abstract of [REDACTED]

INTRODUCTION OF COLLECTIVE WAGE CONTRACTS IN THE GDR (6 pp; German; [REDACTED])

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25X1C This document is a [REDACTED] copy of a typed memorandum on directives for the implementation of collective wage contracts in the GDR. Reference is made to a meeting of the SED Land Executive, which took place in Berlin [REDACTED] and which was attended by the SED industrial group secretaries of all key plants in Berlin. A specific plan for the introduction of collective contracts was discussed and approved at this meeting.

At separate meetings of the SED industrial group executive boards, referents will be chosen, whose duty it will be to speak at workers' meetings in the key plants. Attendance of such meetings will be limited to 25 persons, to give the referents an opportunity to study individual reaction to the proposed collective contracts and to report their findings to the industrial group executive board. The selection of workers suitable for election as delegates by a workers' mass meeting will be based on these reports. Persons so elected are to undergo several days' intensive training, following which they will be required to submit a report to their sections. The nature of this report will determine whether they are eligible to vote on the acceptance by the shops of the collective wage contracts. Persons not so qualified will be openly exposed to their shop groups.

The above is an indication of the high-pressure methods which will be used to force the negotiation of collective wage contracts in all key plants in the Soviet Zone and in East Berlin. The SED industrial group executive board, moreover, has been charged with submitting daily morale reports (based on their contact with the workers) to the SED Kreis executives, while the campaign is in progress. Otto Lehmann, member of the FDGB (Federation of Free German Trade Unions), and a former Stalinovite in the USSR, made the first successful attempt to apply these methods in the GDR (Riesa).

In Berlin, special attention will be given to the "training" of SPD (Social Democratic Party) members who work in key industries. Bruno Baum, Stadtrat (Municipal Counsellor) for Economic Affairs, and the Department of Economic Policy have been charged by the SED with the negotiation of collective contracts in all key industries in Berlin before the end of August.

The names and responsibilities of important functionaries of the SED in Sachsen-Anhalt, of the FDGB Executive in Berlin, and of the FDJ (Free German Youth) are listed in the document. Persons in high position with the GDR government, and the operation of TAN (organization for the establishment of Technical Work Norms) are also discussed.

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Foreign language document or a microfilm of it (A 6676) is available from CIA Library, [REDACTED]

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20 February 1952

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